

SPARKHILL WARD MEETING NOTES

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| WARD: Sparkhill | DATE: 21 March 2023 |
| VENUE: On-line meeting via Microsoft Teams | START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 7.05pm |
| COUNCILLOR Nicky Brennan | NOs OF ATTENDEES: 1 |
| OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Amer Khan, Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinator Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager | Apology from Councillor Rashad Mahmood |

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Welcome

Councillor Brennan welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Ward Action Plan

Councillor Brennan explained that all wards had been asked to review their ward plans and develop a new (or revised) Ward Action Plan for 2022 – 2026. To do this priorities, goals and actions needed to be identified to better enable residents, organisations and councillors to work together to achieve local solutions.

Ward priorities could be set across a range of themes such as (but not only) volunteering, High Streets, community safety, parks, community gardens, litter picking and residents were asked for their views and ideas.

The following suggestions for inclusion in the ward plan were made –

- Making Sparkhill a healthier ward by encouraging health & fitness for women who did not want to use the leisure centre/gym by utilising Sparkhill Park walking routes and incorporating gym equipment
- More investment in Sparkhill Park for health & well-being, better lighting and improved cleaning. Cricket pitch required repair and general maintenance of greenery/trees.
- Encourage more use of public transport (take into account safety aspects of bus use), more cycling routes to cut pollution and better transport infrastructure to address parking issues. Suggestion of free bikes to enable children to cycle to school
- Address numbers of take-away food outlets selling unhealthy food, encourage business to use recyclable food containers and keep the areas outside and around their premises clean and free of rubbish and litter. More bins
- Establish a BID for Stratford Road to raise standards and investment in the area
- The numbers of HMO and exempt properties brought a transient population into the ward who had no investment in the area
- More support for community groups eg assistance with venue costs/free use of community buildings/ assistance with resources/administration

Councillor Brennan in response to the views above said that she agreed with comments surrounding the park and exercise equipment and advised that Narthex was looking to set up a women's group for the ward. She had also written to all schools in respect of air quality monitors via a council grant scheme and so far, had received interest from Arden & St Johns schools and was attempting to establish a 'walking bus' for Greet School.

Amer reported that the Woodlands Road Mosque was engaging with young people via a youth club and encouraging community involvement and Reverend Crowe, Arden School and Shakespeare Street Mosque were working together to create a Friends of Avon Park.